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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. T. PEIRSON.

This report is in the form and sequence prescribed for Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Port Health Authorities by the Ministry of Health, Form Port 20, dated October, 1952.

During the year, cordial relations have been maintained with the Customs, Immigration and other officials concerned with the work of the Port of Plymouth, and co-ordination is maintained through the medium of the Port Health Inspector, Mr. A.S. Kitt.

The number of ships entering the Port increased by 158 to 1964 (Section II - Table B) though the tonnage decreased by 358,606 to 1,938,366, mainly due to a reduction in calls by French Line vessels on the New York-Le Havre service

SECTION I - STAFF.

TABLE A.

Name of Officer.	Nature of appointment.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications	Any other appointments held.
T. Peirson	Port Medical Officer.	5.12.32.	M.D., M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, City of Plymouth.
G.B. Carter	Deputy Port Medical Officer.	5.7.48.	M.D., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health, City of Plymouth.
H.B. Boucher	Part-time Port Medical Officer.	1.5.50.	M.B., F.R.C.S., D.T.M. & H.	Assistant Medical Officer Of Health, City of Plymouth.
A.S.Kitt	Port Health & Food Inspector.	3.2.47.	Sanitary Inspector's Certificate. Meat & Other Foods Certificate.	-

Address and Telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health:

Port Health Office : Millbay Docks, Plymouth.
Tel. Plymouth 62821, Ext. 245 by day
Tel. Plymouth 61441, at night and week-end.

City Office : Seven Trees, Lipson Road, Plymouth.
Tel. Plymouth 61081, by day.
Tel. Plymouth 61441, at night and week-end.

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	630	1,164,407	80	530	7
Coastwise	1334	773,959	-	754	-
Total	1964	1,938,366	80	1284	7

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C.

Passenger Traffic:

Number of passengers INWARDS 8,583

Number of passengers OUTWARDS 5,031

The total number of passengers remaining on board passenger-carrying vessels entering the Port of Plymouth (exclusive of those shown above) was 16,984.

Cargo Traffic:

Principal IMPORTS -

Foreign:

Fertilisers from Ghent, Antwerp and Hamburg.
Basic Slag from Rouen and Dunkirk.
Phosphates from Sfax, Casablanca, Antwerp, Ghent and Rouen.
Potash from Sfax, Barcelona, Hamburg, Antwerp and Bremen.
Fresh fruit from Holland and Italy.
Preserved Meats from Holland.
General Foodstuffs from Holland.
Onions from Roscoff and Holland.
Timber from Vancouver, Gothenburg, Kotka and Hamburg.
Grain from Vancouver, Antwerp and Rouen.
Oyster shells from Frederikssund.
Fuel oil from Trinidad, Abadan and Aruba.
Slates from St. Malo.
Coal from Rotterdam, Calais, Rouen and Dunkirk.

Coastal :

Coal from South Wales and North-East Ports.
Gas Oil from Avonmouth, Thameshaven, Swansea, Hamble and Fawley.
Benzine from Southampton and Fawley.
Motor Spirit from Southampton and Fawley.
Fuel Oil from Swansea, Grangemouth, Hamble, Southampton and Falmouth.
Fertilisers from Middlesborough and Immingham.
Cement from London.
Asphalt from London.
China Clay from Fowey, Charleston and Par.
Grain from Avonmouth, Newport (I.o.W.)and King's Lynn.
Potatoes from Belfast, Kilkeel and Dundrum.
Fish from Deep Sea Fishing Grounds.
Margarine,fats, Sauces, Syrup, Tinned Fruit, Flour, Jam, Biscuits and Rice from Liverpool.
Coffee, Tinned Vegetables, Cereals, Tinned Milk and Meat from Glasgow and Belfast.

Principal EXPORTS -

Granite chippings and China clay.

Principal Ports from which ships arrive:

Asia and Australasia.	Europe	America	Africa.
Adelaide.	Amsterdam	Aruba	Baira
Auckland	Antwerp	Baltimore	Bona
Calcutta	Boulogne	Boston	Cape Town
Melbourne	Bremen	Buenos Aires	Casablanca
Port Pirie	Brest	Cristobal	Mombasa
Rangoon	Calais	Montevideo	Sfax
Singapore.	Cherbourg	New York	Takoradi
	Dunkirk	Paramaribo	Tangier
	Gothenburg	Valparaiso	Trinidad
	Hamburg		
	Kotka		
	Rotterdam		
	Rouen		

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC.

There is no inland barge traffic at the Port.

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY.

(a) The source of water supply for the Port, British Railway Docks, Cattedown, and Sutton Harbour is from Plymouth Corporation Water Department hydrants on the wharves.

(b) Shipping is supplied with water from hydrants on the wharves, or from H.M. Dockyard water-boats.

SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

(1) List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6)

A list of Seaports and Airports in which a confirmed or suspected quarantinable disease has occurred is supplied weekly by the World Health Organisation, Geneva. Copies are typed and sent to the Chief Pilot, H.M. Customs, and to all the boarding Medical Officers.

(2) Radio Messages. (Regulation 13).

(a) There are no arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships arriving from foreign ports to enter the district, except for foreign warships and Royal Naval Auxiliary vessels, which are in radio communication with the Plymouth Naval Base, and report their state of health prior to entering the Port. Other vessels anchor in the Sound, which is a recognised mooring station, and are there boarded.

Regulation 14 (I) (a) and (2).

(b) Vessels landing passengers, and any vessels requiring the attention of the Port Medical Officer, usually wireless their time of arrival at the Port and the state of health on board to the Agents. The latter then inform the Port Health Authority, and, in the case of vessels landing passengers, give the time that the tender will be leaving the wharf to deal with the vessel, which usually anchors in the Sound. The Medical Officer boards the vessel by means of the tender or the Port Health Launch, whichever is most convenient. If there are any infectious conditions aboard, the vessel is required to give preliminary radio warning, either to the Port Health Authority or to the local Agents in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

(3) Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14(I) (b).

Vessels entering the Port requiring the Port Medical Officer, fly the appropriate flag and are boarded in the Sound by the Medical Officer and the Inspector by means of the Port Health Launch, which is prepared to land cases if necessary.

After office hours, information concerning ships entering the Port flying a signal for the Port Medical Officer is received from the Queen's Harbourmaster, H.M. Customs or Royal Naval Authorities.

(4) Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).

Jennycliffe Bay in Plymouth Sound is used as a mooring station in the case of vessels which intend entering the Docks.

As the larger liners lie off in Cawsand Bay or just inside the Breakwater, the usual anchorage is regarded as a mooring station.

(5) Arrangements for :

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox).

Cases of infectious disease landed from vessels are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. Cases suffering from Tuberculosis may be accommodated by arrangement at the Mount Gold Orthopaedic Hospital, Plymouth, if unfit to travel to their home address.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

Where necessary, the names and intended destinations of passengers disembarking from a ship who are contacts of infectious disease are forwarded to the Medical Officers of Health in the appropriate districts.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

When cases of infectious disease are removed from ships in the motor launch "ARGUS" to hospital ashore, the quarters on board are disinfected with Formalin.

Clothing, bedding etc., are conveyed to the Scott Isolation Hospital, for disinfection in the Washington-Lyons Steam Disinfector.

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX.

(1) Isolation Hospitals available.

The first case of cases would be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital, Liskeard, Cornwall (Telephone: Liskeard 2385) staffed from the Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth (telephone: Plymouth 64311 and 61437. Physician-Superintendent : Dr. D.F. Johnstone).

Should it appear likely that more extensive accommodation would be required, arrangements would be made for the Lee Mill Smallpox Hospital to be re-opened as a Smallpox Hospital.

(2) Arrangement for the transport of cases to hospital.

The launch "ARGUS" of the Plymouth Port Health Authority based at Millbay Docks, Plymouth (Telephone:Plymouth 62821 Ext245 by day and Plymouth 61441 at night and week-ends) is available to transport cases from ships to shore. The launch is equipped with a radio transmitter and receiver linked to the Plymouth Ambulance Headquarters.

The crew were re-vaccinated in September 1959.

Ambulances of the Plymouth City Council's Ambulance Service (Telephone: Plymouth 64101) are available to transport cases to hospital.

(3) Smallpox Consultant.

Devon and Cornwall : Dr. W.A. Lister, 10 The Crescent, Plymouth.
Telephone : Plymouth 61875 and 51040.

(4) Facilities for the Laboratory Diagnosis of Smallpox.

Materials for the collection of specimens from suspected cases are always available at the Port Health Offices, Plymouth.

Specimens would be forwarded to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9.

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE.

All ships coming into the Docks are boarded by the Port Medical Officer or Inspector, and where necessary, information is supplied concerning venereal diseases. Pamphlets are issued to seamen setting out the times and days of the Venereal Disease Clinics at the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth, together with directions showing the route from the Docks to the Clinic.

The days and hours of attendance for males are as follows:

Monday	: 6.0	to	7.30	p.m.
Tuesday	: 10.0	to	11.30	a.m.
Wednesday	: 10.30	to	12.0	noon
Thursday	: 6.0	to	7.30	p.m.
Saturday	: 6.0	to	7.30	p.m.

During the year, 80 British and 17 foreign seamen were treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

The Nationalities were as follows:-

British	80
Dutch	7
Spanish	2
Maltese	4
Indian	2
Swedish	1
Danish	1

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D.

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Infective Jaundice	1	-	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	Pulmonary tuberculosis	2	1	3
	Pneumonia	-	1	1
	Influenza	1	-	1
	Mumps	2	-	1
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS.

There were no cases of malaria brought to notice in ships arriving at Plymouth during the year.

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.

No plague infected or suspected ships entered the Port during the year.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

(1) All ships arriving at the various wharves are boarded by the Port Health Inspector, and enquiries made of the officers and crew as to evidence of rat infestation. Foremen Stevedores are also questioned as to the presence of rats. Where rat infestation is found, trapping or poisoning is carried out by the Rodent Operator.

(2) All rats caught are destroyed, and specimens are submitted to the City Bacteriologist for examination for evidence of plague. During the year, one rat was examined, with no evidence of plague infection.

(3) Deratting of ships is carried out by fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas. These fumigations are carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Health Authority.

The names of Commercial Contractors who have carried out the fumigation of vessels at this Port are :

1. Fumigation Service Ltd., Barking, Essex.
2. London Fumigation Co., London E.C.3.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

No necessity arose for the fumigation of a ship during 1960 and if the infestation is small, the use of Warfarin instead of H.C.N. is considered.

(4) During routine inspection of vessels, the Port Health Inspector calls the attention of the responsible officials to any part requiring rat-proofing. When rat infestation is found, the owner is advised to substitute metal sheathing and expanded metal in place of wooden casings and sheathings round pipes, electric wires etc., at a point where they pass through bulkheads or from one compartment to another, and to rat-proof provision storerooms and other compartments where necessary. In general, new vessels are found to be satisfactorily rat-proof and recommendations to improve rat-proofing are rarely required nowadays.

TABLE E.

No rodents were found during the year in ships from foreign ports, and only one dead rat was recovered after treatment of a coastal vessel with Warfarin for a small infestation.

Rodents destroyed during the year in Docks, Quays, Wharves and warehouses.

Category	Number
Black rats	8
Brown rats	264
Species not known .	-
Sent for examination	1
Infected with Plague	-

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.	Total Certificates issued.
After fumigation with		After trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other fumigant (state method)					
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
-	-	-	-	-	23	23

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (Application to Shipping) Order , 1951.

No Rodent Control Certificates were issued to coastal vessels during the year.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	Complied with
1284 vessels inspected	Nil	5	4

SECTION XIV - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948.

Under the above Regulations, the following are prohibited areas for gathering mussels, cockles, winkles, limpets, and other shell-fish for human consumption by an order made in 1936:

Hooe Lake.
The Hamoaze, including West Mud.
St. John's Lake.
Off Torpoint Institution.
Weston Mill Lake.
Off Rat's Island.
Mouth of St. Germans River.
Off Saltash.
River Tamar and its tributaries.

Notice boards are maintained in these areas warning persons that the taking of shell-fish for sale for human consumption is forbidden.

No formal action has been necessary under the Regulations.

All oysters from the Yealm Oyster Fisheries are subjected to a cleansing process before sale.

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

(1) List of Medical Inspectors of Aliens holding Warrants of Appointment.

Dr. T. Peirson
Dr. G.B. Carter
Dr. T.H. Harrison
Dr. N.R. Watheson
Dr. H.B. Boucher
Dr. L.N. Trethowan
Dr. T.R. Forrest.

(2) List of other staff engaged on this work:

Nil.

(3) Organisation of work:

All ships carrying aliens are boarded by the Medical Officer during the course of duty under the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952. At the same time, aliens are inspected as they pass before the Immigration Officer, and the Medical Officer is available for consultation as necessary with the Immigration Officer.

The great majority of the work inconnection with the Medical Inspection of Aliens is carried out by the Deputy Port Medical Officer and the Assistant Port Medical Officer, the remaining Officers performing occasional relief duties.

(4) Nature and amount of aliens traffic :

Much of the traffic is composed of incoming passengers from the Unites States of America, with a small number from Far Eastern Ports and the West Indies. Outgoing traffic is mainly composed of emigrants to Canada and Australia.

During the year, the number of incoming aliens was 3,523 and the number of outgoing aliens was 729.

(5) Accommodation for medical inspection and examination :

A room for medical examination is provided in the Port Health Office.

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Disposal of the dead is carried out under conditions prescribed by the Medical Officer of Health in accordance with the nature of the disease. The Public Mortuary is available to accommodate bodies if necessary. Cremation is advocated and is available locally.

Food Inspection.

During the year, 306 vessels were dealt with under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 & 1948.

There were 220 from foreign ports and 86 coastwise.

The total amount of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unsound, unwholesome and unfit for human consumption consisted of :-

Biscuits	1 qr.	14 lbs.	0 ozs.
Tinned Peas	1	27	11
Grapefruit Juice	1	11	10
Tinned Pears	1	5	13
Lard		18	0
Tinned Peaches		25	12
Tinned Beans		24	6
Pineapple Juice		16	11
Tinned Pineapples		9	4
Tinned Mandarines		9	10
Evaporated Milk		9	1
Corned Beef		12	0
Tinned Pilchards		4	1
Stewed Steak		2	7
Orange Juice		2	6
Total:-	2 cwts. 2 qr.	24 lbs.	12 ozs.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1948.

The following specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Greenbank, Plymouth, for examination:-

Nature of Specimen.	From	Examined for.	Result.
1 Black Rat	S.S. "Eddycreek"	Plague	No evidence of plague.
3 Samples of Sea Water	River Yealm	B. Coli.	Coliform Bacilli - Nil.
4 Samples of Oysters	Yealm Oyster Fisheries.	B. Coli.	Faecal Type E Coli not isolated. Samples satisfactory.

Infectious Diseases.

No major infectious disease occurred within the area of the Authority during 1960.

Cases landed at the Port.

One case of infectious disease was landed, and six cases of non-infectious disease or injury, of whom six were admitted to hospital.

Energy of [illegible]	Land	[illegible]	Remarks
1 Stone [illegible]	[illegible] Tuscarora	[illegible]	[illegible]
2 Complex [illegible] [illegible]	[illegible] Stone	[illegible]	[illegible]
3 Machine or [illegible]	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]